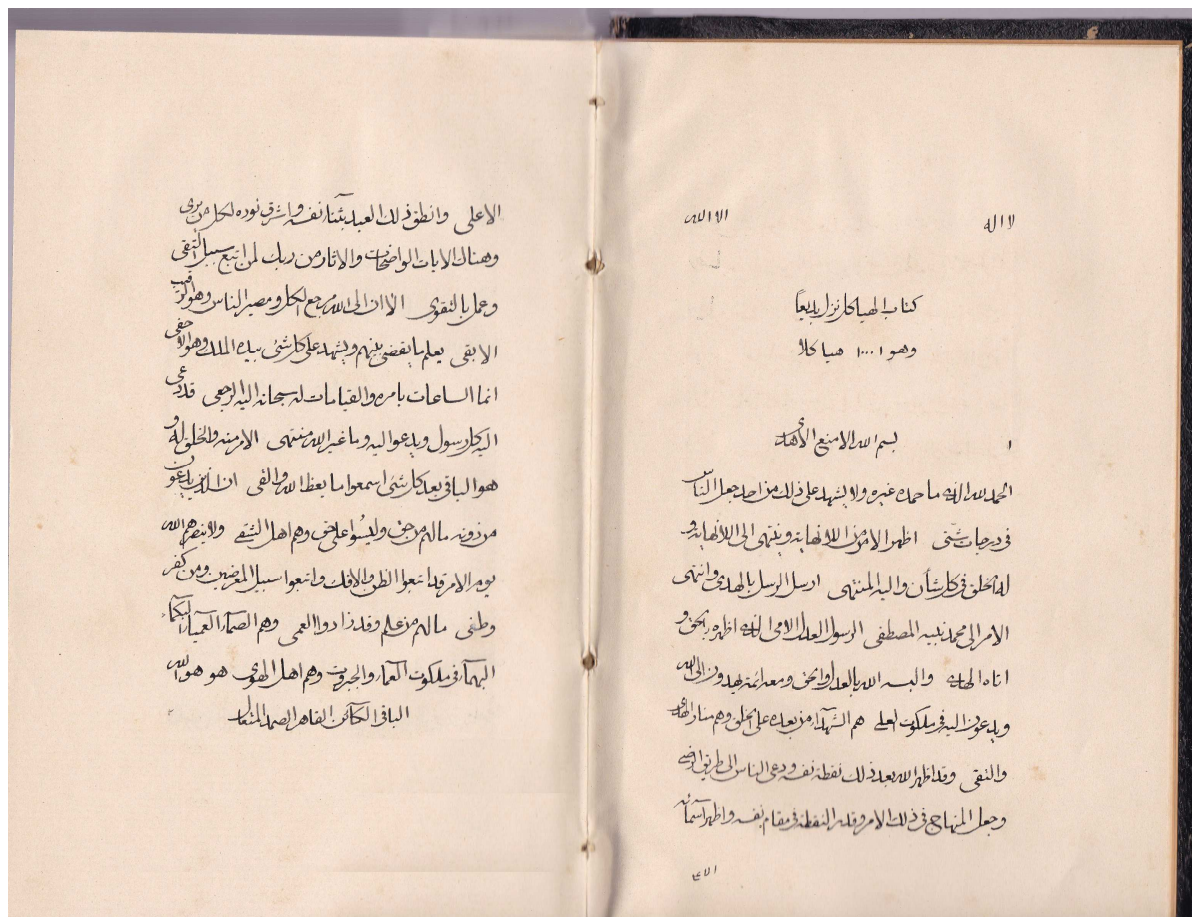


From Ṣubḥ-i-Azal's Book of the Talismanic-Temples (*kitāb al-hayākil*)

Introduction and translation by

N. Wahid Azal



The following below is our translation of the first *sūrah* of Ṣubḥ-i-Azal's **The Book of the Talismanic-Temples** (*kitāb al-hayākil*). Three complete MSS of this work exist in the public domain. The first is CUL (Cambridge University Library) **Browne Collection F.46**:

F. 46 (9).

كتاب الهياكل

Another of Ṣubḥ-i-Azal's Arabic works entitled *Kitābū'l-Hayākil*, containing 1001 *haykals*, grouped in hundreds, beginning:

بسم الله الأتمتع الأهدى

الحمد لله الذي ما حمده غيره ولا يشهد على ذلك من أحد جعل الناس في درجات شتى

Ff. 514 of 20.5×12.5 c. and 14 ll.; good, clear *ta'liq*, except the first few pages which are in *naskh*; copied by Ridwān 'Alī and completed on the 24th of Jumāda I, 1310/Dec. 14, 1892.

The second is **BnF** (Bibliothèque nationale de France) **Arabe 6171** which is online in full, here: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b10031509v>. The third is the British Museum Library **MS Or.5324**. All three were transcribed by Şubḥ-i-Azal's son Riḍvān-ʿAlī. Our **MS** is a scanned copy of the original codex in the hand of the author himself and originated in Cyprus (with 565 folio pages usually of fourteen lines per page). The colophon at the end of the codex **MS** shows it to have been completed by the author on the 25th of May 1891 (or *kawr*/aeon 13, 2nd of the *dawr al-malāʿika*/cycle of the Angels).

It is a work in the Bābī 'First Grade', that is, *āyāt* or Arabic verses in imitation of the Qurʿān. The *kitab al-hayākil* is divided into 101 untitled *sūrahs* consisting of 1001 verses in total which are grouped as *haykals* (talismanic-temples). Here we offer a translation of its first chapter or *sūrah* because it succinctly summarizes the entire Bayānī doctrine. At the conclusion the author also appears to obliquely refer to the Bahāʾīs, i.e. the followers of his rival and step-brother.

6th day of the cycle of the Chosen Ones in the aeon 142

كور 143 دورة المصطفين

18 June 2020 CE

Translation

In the Name of God the Most Impregnable, the Supreme Guide!

Praise be unto God Who is not praised by other than Itself - and none beareth witness to that [other than Itself]! It fashioned people in the degrees of variety and manifested the Cause-Command from infinity and completed it unto infinity! And to It belongs the creation in every state and unto It is the conclusion! It sent the Messengers with guidance and concluded the Cause-Command with Muḥammad - Its Prophet, the Chosen, the Messenger, the Just, the Unlettered - Who was manifested in Truth, for He was bestowed the guidance! And with him Him were the Imāms guiding unto God and summoning unto It in the kingdom of the High! They were the Witnesses after Him over creation, and They were the illuminated landmarks of guidance and reverence! And indeed God manifested after that the Point of Its Logos-Self summoning the people unto the path of contentment! And It

fashioned the pathways in that Cause-Command and established the Point in the station of Its Logos-Self and manifested Its Supreme Names! And that servant spoke by the laudation of Its Logos-Self and illuminated Its Light for all to see, for thither are the clear versical-signs and the traces from thy Lord for whosoever follows the path of pious reverence and acts by reverent piety! Verily indeed is the return of all to God and the destiny of the people, for It is the Watcher, the Ultimate Subsistent! It knoweth what is ordained between them and bears witness over all things! In Its Hand is the dominion, for It is the Ultimate Encompasser! The [soteriological] hours are by Its Cause-Command and the [eschatological] resurrections belong to It! Glorified be It, to It is the return! All the messengers have beckoned to It and have summoned to It, for what other than God is the conclusion? The Cause-Command is from It and the creation belongs to It, for It is the Subsistent after all things!

Hear what God preaches and attain!

Verily those who summon to other than It are not possessed of Truth nor are they upon [the road] of Truth, for they are the folk of wretchedness! Nor will God aid them on the Day of the Cause-Command! For certain they have followed the fanciful supposition and the deception, for they have followed the path of those who have turned away and of infidelity and oppression! They have no knowledge, for indeed they are repulsively blind! And they are the deaf, the blind, the dumb, the stupid beasts in the kingdom of the Hidden Cloud of Unknowing and the Empyrean, for they are the folk of idle fancy!

It is It, God, the Permanently Subsistent, the Existentiator, the Victorious, the Everlasting, the All-High!

